(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Expert Group has been set up to suggest a suitable methodology including the parameters to be used for identification of BPL families living in rural areas.

Schemes for Growth and Development

647. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new schemes to accelerate growth and development of different regions of the country; and

(b) the suggestions received and strategy to act upon those suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The Government of India has introduced many schemes in the recent past for accelerating growth and development of different regions of the country. Some of such schemes are: National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Bharat Nirman launched as a time bound business plan for rural infrastructure, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), etc. All these schemes are being reviewed periodically to give greater focus on growth and development in different regions of the country. Apart from these schemes, the scheme specifically designed to redress regional imbalances that exist within States is the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF).

As per Presidential address, the priority of the new Government would be stepping up of economic growth in agriculture, manufacturing and services, introduction of new flagship programmes for food security and skill development, creation and modernization of infrastructure and capacity addition in key sectors, and PPP projects in different areas etc.

Special Package for Bihar

†648.SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the time of division of Bihar an assurance was given that a special economic package would be given for the development of Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Bihar Legislative Assembly had unanimously demanded special status for Bihar; and

(c) if so, whether this special economic package would be given for the development of Bihar and special status would be given to it by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) At the time of division, the State Government of Bihar had requested for a special economic package. Accordingly, after wide ranging consultations, the Special Plan for Bihar was initiated in 2003-04.

---

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.